

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful review of the application. The Applicants have addressed each of the Examiner's concerns which were expressed in the office action.

The Applicants have narrowed the claims to include additional limitations which are not taught by the cited references. Claims 1, 10 and 20 have been amended to add a limitation that the video, keyboard and mouse signals are not communicated across the expansion slot. Claim 17 is amended to not include an audio signal.

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Thornton, in view of Heller or Roberts.

When evaluating a claim for obviousness, each and every limitation of the claims must be fully considered. To fail to consider any claim language is a failure to examine the claim as a whole as required by 35 U.S.C. §103.

When each and every limitation of the claim, as amended, is considered, it becomes clear that at least one claim limitation is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Each claim, as amended, contains limitations to the notion of not communicating video, keyboard, and mouse signals across the expansion slot or a limitation to not looping an audio signal into the internal expansion card. This notion of not communicating across the expansion slot is a completely foreign notion, especially when considering that expansion cards in general are configured to be

hooked up to an internal bus, which is configured for internal communication in a PC. This notion of having a function of a PC which resided on an expansion card getting its data input or output not from or through the internal bus, but from an external PC output, is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Heller and Roberts do not teach this looping back information from an external output of a PC back into a card on the same PC.

All of the independent claims, except claim 17, have been amended to include these foreign notions of not communicating across the expansion slot.

The ATI-TV reference teaches looping only an audio signal. Claim 17 is directed to video, keyboard and mouse signals and now specifically excludes audio. It is improper hindsight to state that the ATI-TV reference teaches both new limitations of not communicating across the expansion slot and not looping audio, when in fact, it does teach just the opposite. The ATI-TV reference must communicate a video signal from the ATI-TV card in order to generate a display of the television programming. Similarly, the ATV-TV does not even mention looping a video signal, let alone a keyboard or mouse signal.

The Applicants believe that when these claims, as amended, are fully considered, it will be clear that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of the same would be much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

BY:

Gregory G. Williams, Reg. No. 31,681
SIMMONS, PERRINE, ALBRIGHT & ELLWOOD, P.L.C.
Third Floor Tower Place
22 South Linn Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240
Telephone: (319) 887-1368
Facsimile: (319) 887-1372

I hereby certify that this correspondence is
being facsimile transmitted to the United
States Patent and Trademark Office on
May 4, 2004.


Marian Palmersheim